1970

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
FLEET COMPOSITE SQUADRON SIX
Naval Air Station
Norfolk, Virginia 23511

VC 6/Code 11
5300
Ser: 96
4 MAR 1971

From: Commanding Officer, Fleet Composite Squadron SIX, Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia 23511
To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-05D2)

Subj: Fleet Composite Squadron SIX Command History for Calendar Year 1970 (OPNAV Report 5750.1)

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 5750.12 series

Encl: (1) Biographies and Photographs of Commanding Officer
(2) Composite Photo of Target Drones
(3) Complement of Officers, Enlisted, Civilian and Flight Personnel
(4) Deployment Summary
(5) Detachment Warren Grove Operations
(6) Detachment Dam Neck Operations
(7) Statistical Summary of Operations
(8) ADMAT Inspection Grades of 1970
(9) Change of Command Phamphlet
(10) Copy of "Skeet Beat" Squadron Paper
(11) Congratulatory Letters/Messages

1. In accordance with reference (a), the Fleet Composite Squadron SIX Command History for Calendar Year 1970 is submitted herewith.

2. The outstanding events and highlights of 1970 are listed in the following chronology:

1 January - Commenced the first of 26 operational shipboard deployments

13 January - NAS Norfolk Safety Office conducted semi-annual industrial Safety Inspection

21 January - Commenced a two month cruise to Roosevelt Roads Puerto Rico in support of Operation Springboard - 70

16 April - NAVSECGRU Conducted annual RPS inspection

17 April - COMFAIRNORFOLK completed periodic ADMAT inspection of VC 6

28 April - First east coast shipboard launch of the MQM 74A jet target drone

5 May - Commenced a six month NATO good will cruise through the countries of NORTH ATLANTIC

5 May - Commenced six month Mediteranean deployment operating out of NAPLES. Host ship turnover was concurrent with rotation of the destroyer tenders

7 July - MK-39 Septar Target Boat became fully operational

13 July - CDR R. G. ANDERSON assumed Command of Flecompron SIX

23 July - Commenced a two month Gunnery Training Cruise for Naval Academy Midshipmen

29 July - Commenced a four month cruise around the countries of South America in support of UNITAS XI

7 August - First successful at sea retrieval of an aerial target using MK-39 Septar

6 November - NAS Safety Office conducted semi-annual industrial safety inspection

24 November - Received the first Portable Tracking Package from Vega Precision Instruments. This tracking package enables shipboard deployment and use of the MQM-74A Jet Target Drone at sea

30 November - VC-6 Det Warren Grove terminated QM-56 surface target services at Warren Grove in preparation for disestablishment on 5 JAN 71

9 December - First successful attempt at controlling a MK-33 Septar Target Boat from a helicopter

9 December - Squadron all hands Christmas party was held at Fleet Reserve Recreational Park

19 December - Squadron crew conducted annual Christmas party for the handicapped children from the Tidewater area

3. The following narrative expands upon the events listed in paragraph 2 and discusses the command organization, operations and topics of special interest.

a. Location/Command

(1) Fleet Composite Squadron SIX, located at Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia was commanded by CDR Randolph L. RHODES, USN from 8 August 1969 to 13 July 1970; and by CDR Robert G. ANDERSON, USN, from 13 July to present. Enclosure (1) contains a biography and photograph of each Commanding Officer. The command is under the operational and administrative control of Commander Fleet Air Norfolk.

b. Mission

(1) The mission of FLECOMPRON SIX is to provide aerial, land and

waterborne moving target services for surface-to-air, air-to-surface, air-to-air, and surface-to-air gunnery training in support of fleet training for units of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet. These target services are provided through use of unmanned, radio controlled target drones as shown in enclosure (2). During the calendar year 1970, the squadron provided operational services with the MQM-33A and the MQM-36A monoplanes, and the MQM-74A turbojet pilotless aerial target drones, FIREFISH and SEPTAR seaborne target drones and the QM-56 mobile land target drone.

c. Composition

(1) Enclosure (3) enumerates the squadron complement of officer, enlisted, civilian and flight personnel as of 31 December 1970. Included in enclosure (3) are rosters of officer and enlisted personnel.

d. Detachment Organization

(1) Fleet Composite Squadron SIX does not deploy as a unit, but operates on a detachment concept. During the year 1970, the squadron was organized into a parent command, five deploying detachments and two non-deploying detachments permanently based ashore.

(2) The five deploying detachments are composed of One Officer-in-Charge, and from nine to eleven enlisted men and are equipped with both aerial and seaborne target drones. These detachments have the dual capability to provide either waterborne or aerial target services. They deploy aboard ships and provide services whenever and wherever requested. Detachments are trained and provisioned to be self supporting. During 1970, these detachments made 26 individual deployments which ranged from two days to six months in duration. Enclosure (4) is a summary of 1970 deployments.

(3) Detachment Warren Grove was permanently located at Gunnery Range Warren Grove, New Jersey and consisted of one officer and thirteen enlisted men. This detachment operated the QM-56 Land Mobile Target to provide services in support of air-to-surface gunnery training for aircraft of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet. This training was utilized principally by aircraft from MCAS Cherry Point. For logistic reasons it was decided in Oct 70 to disestablish VC-6 Det Warren Grove and transfer all QM-56 assets to the newly established QM-56 Mobile Land Target OP's MCAS Cherry Point. VC-6 Det Warren Grove terminated services on 30 Nov and transferred assets on 3 Dec 70. Formal disestablishment of VC-6 Det Warren Grove was accomplished on 5 Jan 71. Enclosure (5) is a summary of operations conducted by the detachment during 1970.

(4) Detachment Dam Neck is permanently located at Fleet Anti-Air Warfare Training Center, Dam Neck, Virginia and consists of one officer and twenty enlisted men. This detachment operates the MQM-33A, MQM-36A, MQM-74A, FIREFISH and SEPTAR target drones primarily for the U. S. Atlantic Fleet Gunnery School. As an additional mission, Detachment Dam Neck provides operational training for all controllers and maintenance personnel assigned to the deploying detachments. Enclosure (6) is a summary of operations conducted by the detachment during 1970.

e. Operational Statistics

(1) Enclosure (7) is a combined comprehensive statistical summary of all MQM-33A, MQM-36A, MQM-74A, and FIREFISH/SEPTAR operations conducted by the squadron during 1970.

f. Targets, Maintenance, and New Equipment

(1) MQM-36A

The squadron continued flying MQM-36A drones by obtaining the U. S. Army model MQM-33A and replacing the Avionics System with residual MQM-36A assets. In December the MQM-36A assets were diminished to such an extent that it became necessary to install the Army's controlling system for the MQM-33A at Dam Neck, Virginia. The outlook for any further operations with the MQM-36A is doubtful unless action is initiated to procure additional spare parts or new MQM-36A drones.

(2) MQM-74A and Vega Tracking System

The squadron developed procedures for a deploying detachment to operate the MQM-74A aboard ship. In November the first Vega tracking package (Target Group set, Vega Model 656 and Portable Radar Tracking set, Vega model 657) was received and training and tracking evaluations began at Dam Neck the following month. The first operational tests with a deployed detachment are scheduled for Springboard 1971. The MQM-74A operations for the year were double that of the previous year. And with the diminishing MQM-36A assets, the MQM-74A should become the squadron's primary aerial target.

(3) SEPTAR Target Boat MK-33

The SEPTAR was used on many of the deployments through the year and provided excellent services to units of the Atlantic Fleet. Spare parts for the boats must be obtained through local marinas as they are not yet available within the supply system.

(4) SEPTAR Handling Davit

The SEPTAR handling davit that was used in 1970 was found to be inadequate, due mainly to the lack of a power winch. Modification and production of such a davit was started and is due for completion by March 1971.

(5) Maintenance Department Re-organization

The maintenance tasks of this squadron are unique in that both organizational and intermediate level maintenance are performed. In addition, since there are no Navy schools on the operation and maintenance of target drones and associated components, the maintenance department is involved in organizing and providing technical training. The existing maintenance organization did not provide for the efficient accomplishment of the squadron maintenance tasks. During the fall of 1970, all divisions and offices of the

maintenance department were restructured to allow for improved training and for the application of Standard Navy Maintenance and Material Management Techniques on the organizational and intermediate levels. Consolidation of the previously duplicated efforts of the Aircraft, Avionics, and Boat divisions into two divisions, Targets and Intermediate Repair, should greatly improve manpower utilization and the maintenance product.

g. Communications

Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia serves as communications guard for this squadron. During 1970, 367 outgoing and 1904 incoming messages were processed by Naval Air Station, Norfolk for the squadron. A limited amount of RPS is maintained by the squadron which is designated a local holder under cognizance of Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia.

h. Personnel

The following is a resume concerning personnel manning level, advancements, reenlistments and legal matters:

(1) COMNAVAIRLANT requested that the VC-6 enlisted allowance be reduced to compensate for increases elsewhere in AIRLANT. A request to that effect was subsequently submitted on 22 May; and a six man reduction from 211 to 205 was realized in the squadron's September Manpower Authorization.

(2) As of 31 December, the squadron had on board 105% of officer allowance and 96% of enlisted allowance.

(3) The 1970 reenlistment rate was 33% of the 76 eligible first cruise and career candidates; 3 first cruise and 22 career reenlistments were effected.

(4) Promotions from the February/May/August/November Advancement Exams were effected on 43 of the 124 personnel who participated in the exams. Promoted were 19 E-4's, 21 E-5's and 1 E-6.

(5) Twelve Commanding Officers Non-Judicial Punishment cases were conducted by the parent command during 1970, for an average of one case per month.

i. Community Relations and Civic Action

The highlights of the squadron's participation in community relations and civic action are listed as follows:

(1) The squadron had four all hands socials. The annual Christmas Party was held in December at the Fleet Recreation Center, Norfolk.

(2) Open House was held after the Change of Command, for dependents and visitors.

(3) The Annual Handicapped Children's Party was held in December, supported by the exclusive efforts of the crew.

(4) The squadron published a newsletter periodically titled "Skeet Beat" An example is enclosed as enclosure (10). Support for squadron news items is provided by the Naval Air Station, Norfolk paper "Dope Sheet".

(5) Squadron aerial targets were used on FAAWTRACEN Dam Neck floats for the Azalea Festival Parade, Knots Island Festival, Portsmouth Memorial Day Parade, and Virginia Beach Armed Forces Day Parade.

(6) Detachment Warren Grove displayed a float in the Memorial Day Parade at Tuckerton, New Jersey.

4. PROJECTS AND PLANS FOR 1971

a. Plans for 1971 include a complete transition to the MQM-74A Aerial Target Drone and the Septar MK-33 Drone Boat.

b. Operational tests of the VEGA Tracking Package and Support Equipment are now underway and when complete will pave the way for a full utilization of the MQM-74A.

c. The SEPTAR MK-33 Target Boat still continues to provide outstanding services to the Fleet. The portable davit designed for use on APOLLO Equiped ships will allow for operations aboard destroyers. This davit is scheduled to be delivered early in 1971.

d. Helo Control of the MK-33 has also been tested and is another project designed to further enhance the capabilities of SEPTAR Drone.

e. The MQM-74A Aerial Drone is now being considered for use a s an air-to-air missile target for fighter and attack squadrons along the East Coast. Preliminary tests will be conducted early in January and the first operational employment is planned for MAR 1971. An increase in tempo of operations is expected if the air-to-air missile target concept proves feasible.

5. Congratulatory Messages/Letters

Letters or messages of commendation or appreciation received are included as enclosure (11).

R. G. Anderson

R. G. ANDERSON

Copy to:
COMNAVAIRLANT (Code 13)(WO encls 3-11)
Director of Naval History (OP-09B9)

DATE	CONTROL SHIPS	REQUESTING COMMAND	LOCATION	TYPE SERVICES & UNITS SERVICED	
1 JAN 2 JUN DET ALPHA	USS HOLDER	COMSIXTHFLT	MED	MQM	4 SHIPS
5 JAN 15 MAR DET BRAVO	USS SAN MARCOS	COMCARIBSEAFRON	ROOS RDS (SPRINGBOARD)	MQM SEPTAR	33 SHIPS 26 ACFT
12 JAN 17 JAN DET ECHO	USS WALWORTH COUNTY	PHIBRON EIGHT	VACAPES	MQM SEPTAR	2 SHIPS 5 SHIPS
13 JAN 18 JAN DET CHARLIE	USS SALISH	VCOAC (USS SHANGRI-LA)	JAX OPAREA	SEPTAR	25 ACFT
19 FEB 21 FEB DET CHARLIE	USS ATAKAPA	VCOAC (USS MARIAS)	VACAPES	MQM	1 SHIP
24 FEB 4 MAR DET DELTA	LCM	NAVORDSYSCOM	PANAMA CITY	SEPTAR	N/A
12 MAR 19 MAR DET DELTA	USS INDEPENDENCE	VCOAC (USS INDEPENDENCE)	JAX OPAREA	SEPTAR	Ø ACFT
19 MAR 4 APR DET CHARLIE	USS FISKE	COMDESRON TWELVE	OPAREA	MQM	4 SHIPS
24 MAR 28 MAR DET ECHO	USS ATAKAPA	VCOAC (USS LEARY & USS POCONO)	VACAPES	MQM	1 SHIP
20 APR 24 APR DET DELTA	USS PAPAGO	COMDESRON TWO	VACAPES	MQM	4 SHIPS
27 APR 30 APR DET BRAVO	USS SPRINGFIELD	COMSECONDFLT	VACAPES	74A	2 SHIPS
1 MAY 6 MAY DET DELTA	USS SALINAN	VCOAC (USS INDEPENDENCE)	JAX OPAREA	SEPTAR	19 ACFT
5 MAY 24 NOV DET CHARLIE	USS SHENANDOAH USS OWENS USS HOLDER USS MEREDITH USS VOGELGSANG	COMSIXTHFLT	MED	MQM SEPTAR	17 SHIPS 40 ACFT 20 SHIPS

5 MAY 6 OCT DET ECHO	USS FISKE	COMDESRON TWELVE	NORTH ATLANTIC	MQM FIREFISH	9 SHIPS 3 SHIPS
18 MAY 22 MAY DET DELTA	USS LORAIN COUNTY	VCOAC (USS FURSE & USS BIDDLE)	VACAPES	MQM	3 SHIPS
25 MAY 8 JUN DET BRAVO	USS MCCARD	COMDESFLOT TWELVE	AFWR	MQM FIREFISH	7 SHIPS 1 SHIP
8 JUN 12 JUN DET ALPHA	USS FT MANDEN	COMPHIBRON EIGHT	VACAPES	SEPTAR	4 SHIPS
18 JUN 19 JUN DET BRAVO	USS KIOWA	COMDESRON FOURTEEN	VACAPES	MQM	1 SHIP
24 JUL 7 SEP DET ALPHA	USS SPIEGEL GROVE	COMPHIBRON TWELVE	NORTHLANT	SEPTAR	3 SHIPS
25 JUL 10 DEC DET DELTA	USS M. C. FOX	COMSOLANT	SOUTH ATLANTIC	MQM	57 SHIPS
10 AUG 12 AUG DET BRAVO	USS OPPORTUNE	COMCRUDEVCRU TWO	VACAPES	SEPTAR	1 SHIP
18 AUG 22 AUG DET BRAVO	USS SENACA	COMCRUDESFLOT FOUR	VACAPES	SEPTAR	9 SHIPS
25 AUG 28 AUG DET BRAVO	USS SENACA	COMCRUDESFLOT FOUR	VACAPES	MQM	3 SHIPS
14 SEP 15 SEP DET BRAVO	USS ACCOKEEK	VCOAC	VACAPES	MQM	Ø
16 NOV 20 NOV DET ALPHA	USS WOOD COUNTY	COMPHIBRON SIX	VACAPES	MQM	6 SHIPS
30 NOV 5 DEC DET ALPHA	USS HOIST	COMCARDIV FOUR	VACAPES	SEPTAR	17 ACFT

DETACHMENT WARREN GROVE OPERATIONS
QM-56 LAND MOVING TARGET
CY-1970

1. Type and number aircraft serviced

A4	3
A6	57

2. Squadron type and number aircraft serviced

VX	21
VA	26
VMA	17
VF	3

3. Number of attack runs

Actual	476
Practice	307
Total	783

4. Number of hits scored

Bomb	403
Rockets	53
Strafe	Ø

5. Number of direct hits scored

Bomb	Ø
Rocket	Ø
Strafe	Ø

Encl (5)

DETACHMENT DAM NECK OPERATIONS (CY-70)

	MQM-33A	MQM-36A	MQM-74A
LAUNCH ATTEMPTS	9	217	152
SATISFACTORY LAUNCHES	9	202	141
SUCCESSFUL FLIGHTS (SVCS COMPLETED)	9	146	101
FOR GUNNERY FIRING	2	58	25
FOR GUNNERY TRACKING	6	117	76
FOR UNIT TRAINING (VC 6)	8	62	58
EXPENDITURES (OPERATIONAL REASONS)	2	28	28
EXPENDITURES HIT BY GUNFIRE	0	4	0

FIREFISH/SEPTAR SURFACE TGT DRONE CY-70

	Dam Neck	Deploying Dets	Combined
Launch Attempts	15	58	73
Sat. Launch Attempts	15	43	58
Sorties provided for Surface Gunnery	Ø	36	36
Sorties provided for Acft	13	11	24
Ships Serviced	32	127	159
Operational Expenditures	1	2	3
Hit/Kill Expenditures	4	2	6
Successful Operations per Launch Attempt	1ØØ %	8Ø %	82 %

Encl (7)

MQM 36A AERIAL TGT DRONE CY70

	Dam Neck	Deploying DETs	Combined
Launch Attempts	217	114	331
Sat Launches	202	103	305
Successful Flights Services Completed	146	74	220
Operational Expend	28	17	45
Hit/Kill Expend	4	2	6
Total Expend	32	19	51
Flights Per Operational Expenditure (Sat Launches)	7.2	6	6.8
Successful Flights per Operational Expend	5.2	4.4	4.9
Percentage Sat. Launches	93%	90%	92%
Percentage Successful Flights	67%	65%	66%
Number of Units Serviced	FAAWTC	131	131

Encl (7)

MQM-74A AND MQM-33A AERIAL TGT DRONES CY70

	MQM-74A	MQM-33A
LAUNCH ATTEMPTS	152	9
Sat Launches	141	9
Successful Flights (Services Completed)	101	9
Operational Expenditures	28	2
Hit/Kill Expenditures	Ø	Ø
Total Expenditures	28	2
Flights Per Operational Expenditure (Sat Launches)	5	4.5
Successful Flights Per Operational Expenditures	3.6	4.5
Percentage Sat Launches	92.8%	100%
Percentage Successful Flights	66.4%	100%
Number Units Serviced	FAAWTC	FAAWTC

Encl (7)